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Dated: November 15, 2001

Signature: *Shawn P. Foley*
(Shawn P. Foley)

#15
RP
1-22-02

Docket No.: INTERLINK 3.0-003
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Patent Application of:
Everett et al.

Application No.: 09/431,546

Group Art Unit: 1635

Filed: October 29, 1999

Examiner: S. McGarry

For: PEPTIDES WITH ENHANCED STABILITY
TO PROTEASE DEGRADATION

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the official Office action mailed September 27, 2001. Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one month in which to respond, and which authorizes the Commissioner to charge the requisite fee and any other fees due and owing to Deposit Account No. 12-1095. This Petition is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

The claims have been restricted into six groups. In the Examiner's view, each of these inventions is distinct from the others. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group II, claims 1-13 and 18-26, drawn to a method of reducing protease degradation of a protein via the transformation of a plant or plant part with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a Rev4 peptide. Applicants traverse the requirement particularly to the extent it applies to Groups II, V and VI. The latter two groups are directed to nucleic acid molecules encoding a Rev4 peptide, and to a transgenic plant and a method of making a transgenic plant respectively. Plainly, these "inventions" are utilized in the course of practicing the method defined by the claims in Group II. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement to include claims 29-45 with the elected claims for examination on the merits.

The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned if he has any questions.

Dated: November 15, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By

Shawn P. Foley

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